



# SENATOR RUNNER'S WEEK IN REVIEW

A WEEKLY REVIEW THAT WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AND UP-TO-DATE



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## Final 2006-07 State Budget

Today, Governor Schwarzenegger signed the 2006-07 budget. I am pleased that Republicans were successful in ensuring that no taxpayer funded health insurance benefits for illegal aliens was funded in this budget. We also fought for increased equalization funding for schools and restoration of critical public safety funding.

However, I could not ultimately support this budget because of my concerns about the level of debt. Despite billions in unanticipated revenues this year, this budget fails to fully address current and future year deficits. I believe it is important to balance our budget.

Below are some of the highlights in this year's budget.

### News of the Week

[\\$131 Billion State Budget Approved](#)

[Dan Weintraub: Budget Leaves State's Fiscal Problems Unresolved](#)

[LA Times: Union Bosses Today, School Bosses Tomorrow](#)

[OC Register: Scapegoating Proposition 13](#)

[Judge Tentatively Rules to Allow Christian Students to Sue the UC System](#)

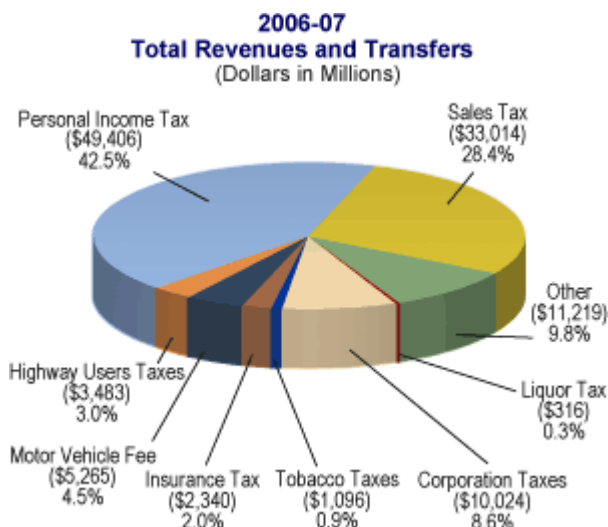
[Physician-Assisted Suicide Bill Rejected by Senate Committee](#)

[Ballot Measures Could Be Pitfalls for Candidates](#)

[Governor: Deal With Prisons Now](#)

## GENERAL FUND SPENDING

The final budget provides \$101.3 billion in General Fund expenditures for the 2006-07 budget year, \$11 billion up from 2005-06. \$2 billion of the \$11 billion increase will go to pay off long-term debt. Total spending will top \$189 billion including general funds, special funds and federal funds.



The final budget will reduce the state's current long-term debt of \$20.7 billion by \$2.9 billion. The \$2.9 billion will reduce transportation debt by \$1.4 billion, pay back \$472 million in economic recovery bonds, pay \$325 million for special fund loans, and devote \$170 million for non-education mandate payments. The final budget contains a \$2.2 billion budget reserve.

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

The final budget package restored most of the public safety funding cut by the budget conference committee.

**COPS (Citizens' Option for Public Safety)** - Restored \$19 million out of \$21.3 million proposed cut - These programs provide grants to frontline law enforcement agencies such as county sheriffs, police departments and district attorneys. Senator Poochigian authored the bill that made funding for the COPS program permanent.

**Vertical Prosecution Block Grants** - Restored \$8 million of \$10.1 million proposed cut - Grants to local district attorneys to ensure consistency and proficiency in cases by allowing district attorneys to assign prosecutors to certain types of cases and crimes and follow cases through the judicial process.

**Local Detention Facility Funds** - Funding of \$40 million delayed for 1 year, while cities are backfilled with \$35 million - The proposed funding for local detention facilities backfills any county losses from booking fees and provides much-needed local jail funding to relieve the pressure on overcrowded local jails.

**Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act** - Restored \$19 million of \$21.3 million cut - Programs funded by the JJCPA can help provide guidance and mentorship for the approximately 210,000 California youths are arrested annually and are designed to reduce youth crime rates.

**Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant Program** - Restored \$45 million of \$50 million cut - These grants provide funding for various programs designed to reduce crime, jail crowding, and criminal justice costs associated with mentally ill offenders.

**SAFE Teams (Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Task Forces)** - \$6 million increase to be included in subsequent legislation - SAFE Teams take a proactive approach to surveillance and arrest of habitual sex offenders. In partnership with the FBI, SAFE Teams also investigate sexual crimes involving the Internet.

## **EDUCATION FUNDING - K-12 EDUCATION**

**Proposition 98** - Provides education expenditures of \$55.1 billion - an \$8.1 billion increase from 2004-05.

**Per-Pupil Spending** - Increases per-pupil spending, including all funds, to \$11,200.

**Equalization** - Provides \$350 million for "equalization" funding for K-12 schools. The legislature has been making progress to equalize state educational funding so that all schools receive at least 90% of base year funding. While the \$350 million will move school districts closer to parity, full equalization would require a \$460 million commitment.

## **EDUCATION FUNDING - HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Community College Fees** - Reduces Community College fees from \$26 to \$20 per unit.

Unfortunately, this reduction will eliminate eligibility for Pell grants for some low income students.

**Community College Equalization** - Provides \$160 million to fully equalize community college baseline funding. (Revenue limit funding)

**Nurse Education Initiative** - Provides \$10.5 million to expand nursing programs.

### **HEALTH AND WELFARE PROGRAMS**

**County Performance Grants** – Reinstates the CalWORKs Pay for Performance Program where counties are rewarded for moving welfare recipients from welfare to work. This \$40 million program will help address the state's failure to meet federal welfare to work goals which could result in up to a \$2 billion penalty over 5 years. Provides an additional \$140 million county funding for counties to use for eligibility determinations, child care, transportation, job club and basic employment services.

### **TRANSPORTATION FUNDING**

**Proposition 42** – Fully funds Proposition 42 at \$1.4 billion for 2006-07 and pays back over \$1.4 billion in previously borrowed funds.

### **AGRICULTURE, WATER, AND RESOURCE ISSUES**

**CALFED Reorganization** - The final budget takes the first step in the reorganization of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. This action was taken in response to concerns regarding the efficacy of the CALFED program raised by programmatic and fiscal reviews prepared by the Department of Finance, the Little Hoover Commission, and an independent consulting firm.

**Local Reimbursement for Flood Control Projects** - Reimbursement claims to the state for flood control improvements made by local governments have not traditionally been processed or paid by the state in a timely manner. Claims received or expected to be received by the end of the 2005-06 fiscal year total approximately \$250 million. The final budget proposes \$100 million General Fund to pay a substantial portion of the outstanding claims.

**No Water Fees** - Fees originally included in the budget for the support of water rights programs and the State Water Resources Control Board were successfully removed.

**Small Business Fee Increase** - Current law allows an "environmental permitting fee" on all corporations that deal with hazardous substances and have 50 or more employees. This change is estimated to impose fees ranging from \$243 to \$100,000 on each California business subject to the tax throughout the state.

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